

Veterans



Office of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

Leave No Man Behind?

- More than 60,000 veterans waiting for a medical appointment
- 560,000 disabled veterans hurt by “disabled veterans tax”
- 20 percent of National Guard members with no health insurance
- An average of 14,000 veterans have been waiting more than 15 months to get their disability claims finalized
- One million children in military families denied the expanded child tax credit



Democratic Salute to Veterans and Armed Forces

- Provides \$1.8 billion this year and \$10 billion over 10 years to fund veterans health care
- Completely ends the disabled veterans tax
- Expedites disability claims and give veterans kept waiting \$500 a month
- Permanent increases in imminent danger and family separation pay
- Child tax credit for all military families



Some Bipartisan Successes

- \$1.1 billion increase in veterans' health care
- Temporary increase in imminent danger and family separation pay
- TRICARE eligibility for National Guard and Reserves if they have no other health insurance
- Health care for National Guard and Reserves for six months after leaving active duty

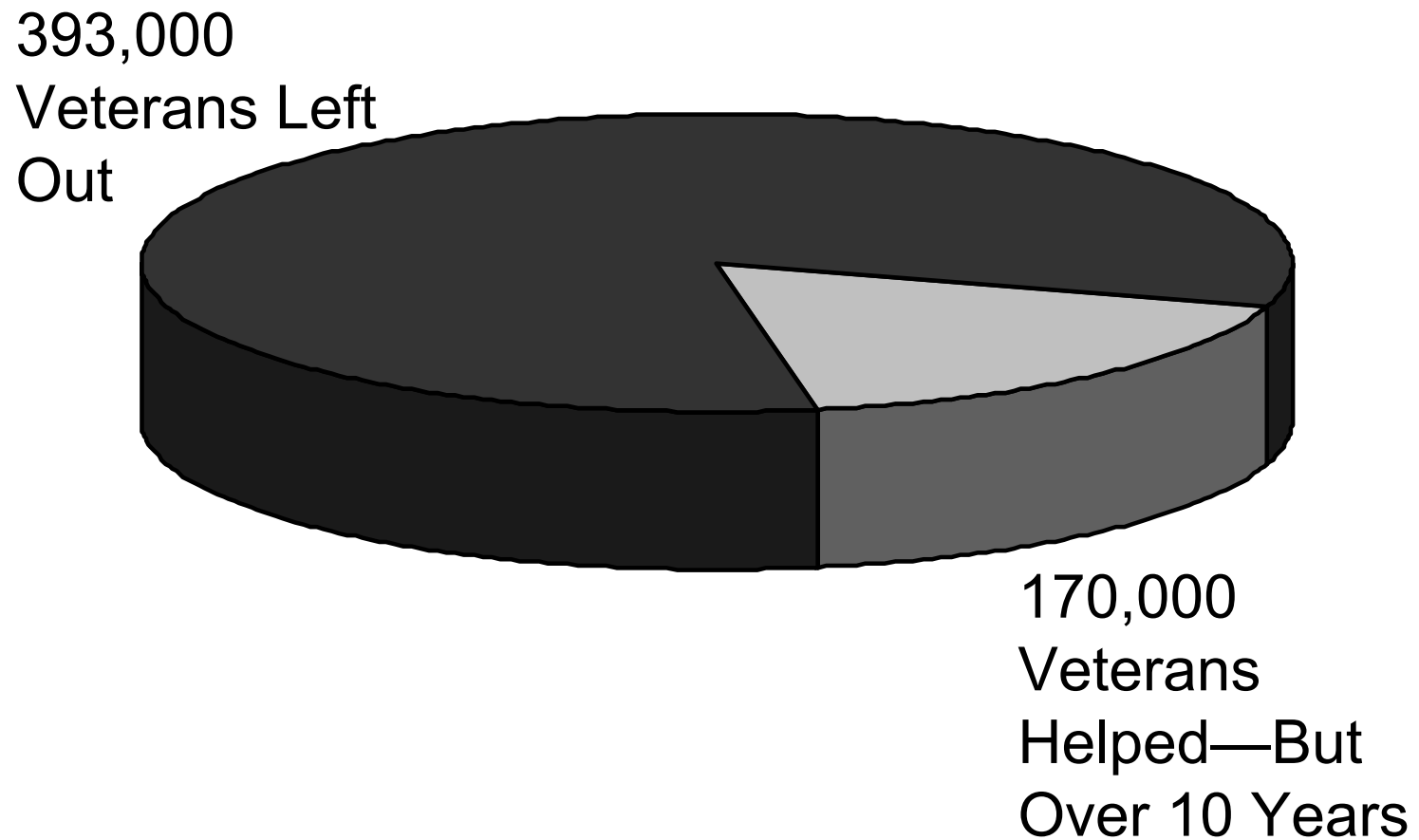


Not Even Half a Loaf

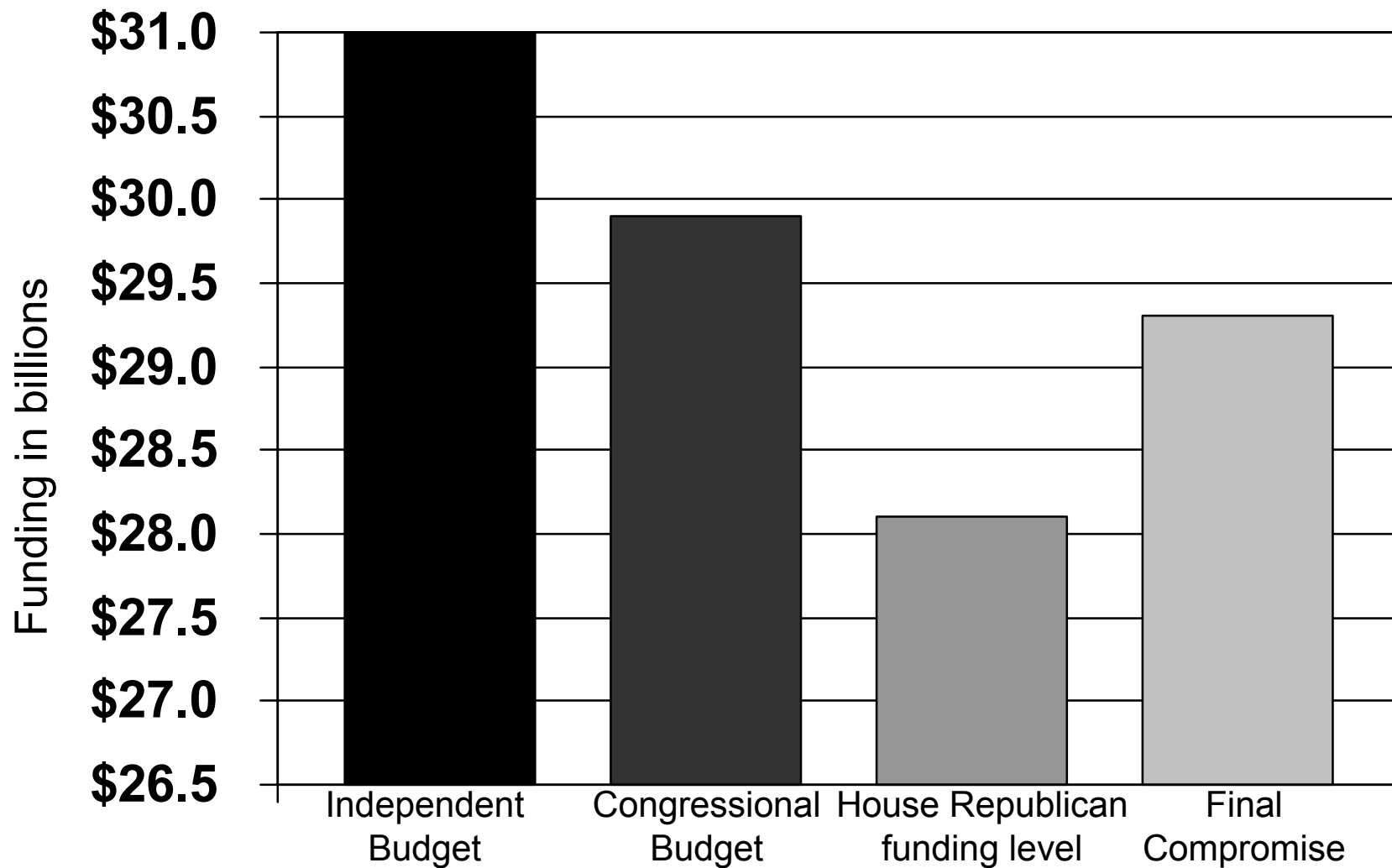
- Republican budget leaves many veterans behind
- Concurrent receipt compromise helps just one-third of eligible veterans
- Veterans' health care still underfunded
- Veterans' programs subject to across the board cut
- Republicans oppose a \$1500 bonus for troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan



Republican Concurrent Receipt Plan Leaves Out Two-Thirds of Eligible Veterans



Shortchanging Veterans' Health Care



FY2004 Discretionary Spending

Shortchanging Veterans' Health Care

“Veterans are condemning House Republicans' failure to deliver a \$3.2 billion boost for the Veterans Affairs Department that would have shrunk the agency's waiting list for medical care. ‘A shameless betrayal’ is how AMVETS sums it up. ‘A moral outrage,’ the American Legion said. ‘Abominable’ is the word from the Non Commissioned Officers Association. “

--Gannett New Service, 8/18/03



Taxing Disabled Veterans

“Creating a two-tiered benefits system, that favors one group of service-disabled military retirees over another, is not the answer. Creating a commission to study VA’s disability-compensation system - a system which requires medical evidence to prove a claim and is scrutinized by congressional Veterans’ Affairs committees, an appeals process, and a federal court - is not the answer. The answer is to repeal the tax for all service-disabled military retirees.”

--American Legion Press release, 10/16/03

